

AYLSHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year

1 9 2 2.

-----oOo-----

To the Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the
AYLSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1922 will be an "Ordinary Report" as defined in paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Health's circular 269; such a Report being less lengthy than the "Survey Report" which is required every fifth year.

POPULATION. The population, as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of the year 1922, is 16,430, showing an increase of 150 since the census of 1921. This figure will be taken in calculating the death and birth rates, and for general statistical purposes. At the census 1921, the population was shown to be 16,280, and decreasing at the rate of over 100 a year since the census 1911. Full information of the census figures are still withheld from Medical Officers of Health except on the payment of a fee to the Registrar General. I am, therefore, unable at present to learn the population of individual parishes in the District or the number of separate dwellings. From inquiries I have made at the office of the Registrar General I am glad to find that the price of this information is now greatly reduced, and I trust that ultimately it may be granted free of cost to Medical Officers of Health.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 368 and the birth-rate for the District is 22.3, considerably higher than that for England and Wales - 20.6 and slightly above last year's record for this District. There were 33 illegitimate births as compared with 31 in the previous year.

DEATHS. One hundred and ninety two deaths were registered giving a death-rate of 11.6 which compares very favourably with that of England and Wales, which was 12.9. The chief causes of death were Heart Disease 26, Cancer 25, and Tuberculosis 16. From infectious disease there were nine deaths, viz, from



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28817394>

Whooping Cough 4, Measles 1, Diphtheria 1, and Influenza 3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Although more deaths among infants have to be recorded than in the previous year, when the infantile mortality was phenomenally low (41 per 1000 Births), the District maintains its position as one favourable to the rearing of babies. The deaths under one year were 21, and the births numbered 368, which gives an infantile mortality of 57 per 1000 births as compared with 77 for the whole of England and Wales. The mortality among illegitimate babies is always higher than the general infantile mortality, and for this year it reaches the figure of 90 per 1000 illegitimate births.

Thirty three expectant and nursing mothers and infants received grants of milk free of cost under the maternity and child welfare scheme.

Notifiable disease during the year.

Eighty eight notifications, relating to the following diseases, were received during the year.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Case-rate per</u> <u>1000 popn.</u>	<u>Case-rate Engd. and</u> <u>Wales per 1000 popn.</u>
Scarlet fever	29	1.76	2.85
Diphtheria	31	1.88	1.37
Enteric Fever	0	-	.06
Puerperal Fever	0	-	-
Erysipelas	4	.24	.35
Pneumonia	2	.12	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmy)	17	1.03	-
do. (other)	5	.30	-

SCARLET FEVER. In the first six months of the year there were eleven sporadic cases distributed through eight parishes. In October an outbreak occurred in the parishes of Swanton Abbott and Scottow in connection with which sixteen cases were notified. The infection was spread through some children, who during the Summer holidays had suffered from mild undetected attacks, returning to school while still in an infective state. Had it not been holiday time information would most certainly have reached me from the Head Teacher of the school that these children were absent suffering from an illness suggestive of Scarlet Fever, and a long and tedious outbreak might have been averted. It is an example, though of a negative character, of the great value of the system of school notification which was introduced by the School Medical Officer. The earliest information of an impending epidemic is very generally received from the Head Teacher of the elementary School.

DIPHTHERIA. I have received during the year thirty one notifications of "diphtheria", though it would perhaps be more correct to state that swabs taken from the throats of thirty one individuals showed the presence of the diphtheria bacillus. Unfortunately it is illegal at our County Laboratory to differentiate between the virulent and the a-virulent varieties of the bacillus or in other words to tell whether a person in whose throat the bacillus has been detected is a most dangerously

infected person, or perfectly harmless. This point could be decided with certainty and at little expense, were it not for the vivi-section laws by the guinea-pig test; one guinea pig serving for about fifteen tests with practically no annoyance to the animal. Were it possible to apply this test the number of notifications of diphtheria would doubtless be very greatly reduced and an infinite amount of human anxiety trouble and expense saved thereby.

Of the thirty one notifications all but ten were sent me from the Buxton Industrial School, which suffered from a somewhat extensive outbreak during the Summer. Happily the cases, which numbered 21, were of a mild type and none were fatal. Very energetic steps were taken by the Medical Officer of the Institution, and as many as 302 swabs were sent to the County Laboratory for examination. Advantage was taken of the facilities for isolation afforded by the institution, and by the end of the year all the inmates were free from infection. The ten cases reported from other parts of the District were in no way connected with this outbreak and had a wide distribution. The one fatal case assigned to this District was that of a child whose usual residence was Corpusty, and who died in the Oulton (by Lowestoft) Isolation Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER The District has been entirely free from this disease for more than four years.

There have been no noteworthy conditions prejudicial to the health of the area nor has there been any noteworthy occurrence affecting the public health during the year beyond those referred to above.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. BACK,

Medical Officer of
Health.

A P P E N D I X.

1. General Statistics.

Area	63,341 acres.
Population (1921)	12,260
Inhabited houses (1921)	
Families or separate Occupiers (1921)	Information available on the payment of a fee to the Registrar General.
Rateable Value	£91,292
Sum represented by 1d rate	£380-7-8.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

Births.	Legitimate	335	Male	186	Female	149
	Illegitimate	33	Male	14	Female	19
	Total	<u>368</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>168</u>

Birth-rate 22.3

Deaths 192 Males 97. Females 95.

Death-rate 11.6.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :-

From sepsis 0.

Other causes 0.

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births :-

Legitimate 53. Illegitimate 90 Total 57

Deaths from Meales (all ages) 1.

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) 4.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 2.

3. Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Number notified</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria	31	0	1
Scarlet Fever	29	0	0
Euteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	4.	0	0
Pneumonia	2.	0	4
Tuberculosis Pulmonary(Male)	8	7.	5
(a) Pulmonary (Female)	3	3	7
Total	17	10	12
(Male)	1	0	2
(b) Non-pulmonary(Female)	4	0	2
Total	5	0	4

The notification of tuberculosis, though improving, is not yet properly carried out.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No case has been notified during the year.

4. Causes of Sickness. No noteworthy cause of sickness has to be recorded.

5. Nursing arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

District Nurses, subsidised by grants from the County Council, provide nursing facilities in the majority of the parishes of the District. Eight midwives practice in the District. There are no clinics or Treatment Centres.

A corrugated iron building with accommodation for three patients and situated on the outskirts of Aylsham is available as a Small-pox Hospital.

There are no hospitals, beyond the Workhouse Infirmary, within the District, but the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and other Institutions in Norwich are available.

6. Laboratory Work. The laboratory work of the District is carried out at the County Laboratory, Norwich. Four hundred and twenty six throat swabs were examined; of these 302 were from Inmates of the Buxton Industrial School. No specimens of sputum were sent for examination.

Diphtheria antitoxin and anti-tetanus serum are supplied from the County Laboratory, and paid for by the District Council.

No adoptive Acts or Local Regulations are in force in the District.

Byelaws with respect to Cowsheds and Milk Shops were adopted for use in the District in 1907.

7. Sanitary Administration.

Closets. Public scavenging systems are in force in the parishes of Aylsham, Coltishall, Great Hautbois and Hackford. Number of pail closets on the scavengers' lists of the four parishes at 31st. of December 806

Number of closets converted to the pail system during the year 10
Number of Closets provided for New Houses 13

Bakehouses. Number on Inspectors List 25
Number of Inspections made 43
Number of closed Bakehouse re-opened 1
Number of Bakehouses not occupied as such 6
Number in which Sec. 99 (b), Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, had not been complied with.... 4
Number of Informal Notices served under above Section 4
Number of Bakehouses in which this Section was complied with after service of Informal Notices 4.

Slaughterhouses. Number on Inspector's List 21
" of Inspections made 40
" " new Slaughterhouse 1
Structural improvement effected 1
Unsatisfactory place used as Slaughterhouse and now discontinued as such 1

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Number of houses disinfected after Infectious disease 35
When necessary, disinfestation of verminous clothing is carried out in the Steam Disinfector at the Poor Law Institution, at Aylsham.

Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops. In accordance with Section 2 (3) of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922 separate Wholesale and Retail registers are now kept.

Number of Retailers on Register 14
" " Wholesalers on Register 10
" " Samples taken 1
" " Visits of Inspection 11

Action under Sale of Food & Drugs Act & Milk & Cream Regulations- 0

Public Health Staff.

H.H. Back, M.B. (Lond) Medical Officer of Health.
H.W.T. Trotter, M.R.S.I. Sanitary Inspector.

<u>Housing.</u>	Number of new houses erected during the year	
	(a) Total	30
	(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	28

(1) Unfit Dwelling houses.

Inspection. -- (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts. (No record has been kept of those houses inspected under the Public Health Act, in which no defects were found to be sufficiently large enough to take action) 861

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 576

(3) Number of dwellinghouse found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 7

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 6

(2) Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. In many cases three visits have been necessary before the informal notices were complied with, and in all cases a second visit was paid 352

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A. - Proceedings under Section 28, Housing and Town Planning Act, 1915.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit :-

(a) By owners. 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close..... 1

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied :-

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C. - Proceedings under Sections 17 & 18 of the Housing and Town Planning act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 0

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit 0

- | | |
|---|---|
| (4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made | 0 |
| (5) Number of dwellinghouse demolished in pursuance
of demolition orders | 0 |

Matters other than those referred to in previous section of Report.

Various matters dealing with sewers &c. reported and dealt with by Sanitary Committee	53.
--	-----

Number of Wooden Huts on wheels without privy accommodation or water supply, used as dwellings	3
---	---

Number of above, provided with pail privies after informal notice by Local Authority	1
---	---

Number since given up as dwellings under pressure from Local Authority and other accommodation becoming available	2
--	---

Sewerage.

An open sewer in the Parish of Foulsham has been piped in. This sewer which is located in Coldharbour Lane, has been a source of "Nuisance" for many years. The ditch in which the sewage was turned had very little fall, and owing to the fact that there was no surface water turned into the sewer the ditch was never flushed, with the result the sewage became offensive. The length of sewer piped was 345 feet.

